

The historic clash of these two titans of college football, is more than just a ball game between two rivals, the event itself, themed a "salute to our military troops" is an opportunity for us to pause and celebrate the tremendous role that we as African Americans and as former, current and future leaders of men and women play in the success of our great nation.

As many of you know, African-Americans have a proud and rich tradition of service to our nation. From Crispus Attucks, born a slave, who was the first casualty of the Revolutionary War to the oldest Buffalo Soldier and Calvaryman, Sergeant Mark Matthews, who fought under General Pershing in the Spanish American War and recently died at age 111; from the Black Union Soldiers who volunteered and fought in America's Civil War, to July 19, 1941, when during World War II, a program began in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots, a squadron of fighter pilots that we now know as the Tuskegee Airmen.

We honor and recognize those African-American servicemen and women who have served in the Korean War, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm, as well as the brave soldiers, sailors and marines who continue to serve in our Nation's global war on terror. Officers and soldiers trained by institutions such as Morehouse College and Tuskegee University have and continue to fight for freedom. We pay tribute to them today, as we honor the courageous men and women, here at Fort Benning and around the world who dedicate their lives for their country.

Therefore, I invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as those present at this year's 70th Annual Tuskegee-Morehouse Football Classic to join me in saluting our military troops. We pause in celebration and in recognition of their service and sacrifice on our behalf.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of the Republic of China's (Taiwan) Independence Day, a day commonly referred to as Double 10 Day. Double 10 Day celebrates the start of the Wuchang Uprising on October 10, 1911, which led to the collapse of the Qing dynasty. It is therefore also known in Chinese as National Celebration Day. I am proud to join with the people of Taiwan and their leader President Chen Shui-bian in commemorating the Chinese people's struggle for independence.

Double 10 Day offers those of us in Congress an opportunity to recognize Taiwan's friendship and unwavering alliance with the United States. This strong alliance is predicated in part on shared values. In fact, Taiwan has nurtured a stable democracy and vibrant economy that encourages the entrepreneurial spirit. Taiwan has also become a model society. It has excellent schools, outstanding medical care, a strong economy, and many of its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living. Taiwan's social welfare programs have been making laudable efforts to raise the standard of living for all.

Mr. Speaker, I would also take this opportunity to praise the good work of Taiwan Representative David Tawei Lee. He is a fine diplomat who has kept those of us in Congress well informed and well briefed on all of the latest developments in Taiwan.

Again, congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their Independence Day and I wish the 23 million people of Taiwan continued progress and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE SLIGER

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, my good friend and an outstanding Central Florida businessman, Stephen Blair Sliger, passed away on October 4, 2005.

He is a native of Deland, Florida where was he born on November 21, 1952. Steve Sliger was preceded in death by his brother, Gus A. Sliger. Gus, also a close friend, lost his life 10 years ago in a tragic motorcycle accident. Steve headed Sliger and Associates of Port Orange, FL, founded by his late brother.

A wonderful father and husband, he was dedicated to his family, his community, and his business.

To Steve's wife, Sonia, his sons Adam and Noah, his father Gus A. Sliger, II and all of his family, we extend our deepest sympathy. They have lost a loved one. I have lost a good friend and our community has lost a great American.

HONORING LIMA COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 25TH REGIMENT UPON THEIR RETURN HOME FROM IRAQ

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Ohio has shouldered an enormous share of the sacrifice, but no one has shouldered a greater share than the Marines and families of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, based in my hometown of Columbus. On August 3, 2005, this brave group of soldiers lost nine of their brethren in western Iraq. Since its deployment in March, Lima Company has lost fifteen of its 160 men.

The 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines' reputation is legendary. First activated on May 1, 1943, "3/25" captured a key airfield at the Batte of Iwo Jima in the Pacific. The battalion fought heroically in the battles of Kwajalein Atoll, Saipan, Tinian, and Colonel Justice Marino Chambers received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery as Commander of the 3/25 at Iwo Jima. After being deactivated at the end of WWII, the battalion was reactivated in January of this year, and headed to Iraq in March.

It truly is impossible for us to fully comprehend the dangerous mission these valiant Marines have undertaken in Iraq. They've

been tasked with the most strategic yet risky assignments, often moving from town to town, door to door, in search of armed insurgents along the Euphrates River. And as desperate insurgents have been staging more frequent and deadly attacks on our armed forces, Lima Company endured the brunt of these attacks on that fateful day in August and laid to rest nine brave soldiers.

When confronted with a loss as great as this, we all search for some perspective, trying to balance the sacrifices made by these brave Marines with the vital mission our soldiers are carrying out in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We take some solace in knowing that because of the commitment and dedication to freedom by America's soldiers and those of our allies, more people in the Middle East region are living in freedom under democratically elected governments than at any point in the history of this region. We have witnessed free elections in Palestine and the election of a leader committed to achieving lasting peace. Saudi Arabia has held elections, and Syria has ended its occupation of Lebanon. Libya's nuclear program has been dismantled, and Egypt is allowing for challengers to compete in a public election against the sitting president. This democratic domino effect portends a safer, freer future for the people of the Middle East and the rest of the world.

As Lima Company returns home to Ohio, the Iraqi people are about to embark on a monumental endeavor—casting a vote on their very own Constitution—drafted by officials they selected just ten months ago in a free and fair election. I have to think that the crossing of these two meaningful events is not coincidental. There is far too much symbolism. This Constitution is a tangible and lasting symbol of freedom and liberty in a part of the world that for centuries has known neither, yet without the brave sacrifices of Lima Company, and all of America's armed forces, they would probably never know. Thank you, Lima Company, for your bravery, heroism, and sacrifice. We welcome you home.

RECOGNIZING MELVIN KREB OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melvin Horton Krebs, deputy director of the California Conservation Corps and a distinguished citizen of Humboldt County, CA. He is being honored for his contribution to one of our Nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. His commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Mr. Krebs, a graduate of Humboldt State University, has served with distinction at the California Conservation Corps since 1980. He began his career as a conservation administrator and spent many years as the district director for northern California. In the past year he was singled out to become the chief deputy director in the State of California.

Mel was a founding member of the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and the Salmonid Restoration Federation. He has received numerous awards for his restoration